



## Battle of Vaslui (1475): When 40,000 Moldavians Crushed 120,000 Ottomans



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The Battle of Vaslui (1475) - one of the greatest military upsets in history. Prince Stephen III of Moldavia crushed 120,000 Ottoman soldiers with just 40,000 men. This is how he did the impossible.

On January 10, 1475, a frozen valley in Eastern Moldavia became the graveyard of Ottoman ambition. 45,000 Ottoman soldiers lay dead in the snow. The most powerful empire on Earth had just suffered its worst defeat in a generation.

The Ottoman Empire that conquered Constantinople. The Janissaries who broke walls that stood for a thousand years. The army that crushed Serbia, Bosnia, and the Balkans. Defeated by a prince from a tiny principality no one had heard of.

Stephen III didn't win with superior numbers. He won with superior strategy. Scorched earth. Guerrilla warfare. Frozen winter. And a trap so perfect the Ottomans walked straight into their own annihilation.

This video covers:

- The Fall of Constantinople (1453) and Ottoman expansion
- Stephen III's rise to power and alliance with Vlad Dracula
- Moldavia's impossible geopolitical position
- The scorched earth strategy that starved the Ottoman army
- The Battle of Vaslui - full tactical breakdown
- The merciless pursuit and 45,000 Ottoman dead
- Pope Sixtus IV naming Stephen "Champion of Christ"
- Mehmed II's revenge invasion of 1476
- Stephen's 47-year legacy and why Vaslui still matters

The Ottoman Empire wouldn't collapse for another 400 years. But Vaslui proved something that changed European history: empires can be resisted. Numbers don't guarantee victory. And sometimes the greatest leadership means choosing the terrible option that keeps your people free.

Stephen III ruled for 47 years. Fought over 40 battles. Lost only two. Made Moldavia too expensive to conquer. That's the lesson of Vaslui: Empires don't respect strength. They respect cost.

SOURCES & FURTHER READING

• Romanian and Moldovan historical archives

## Transcript

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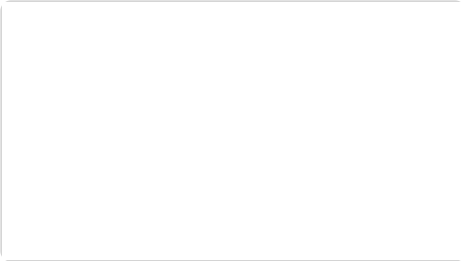
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Long live! Long live! Transylvania, Moldova and Wallachia!

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@maxterlisner9362 7 days ago

Hurra for Moldavia

Translate to Romanian

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@victoriaanv6747 7 days ago

Thank you...from Valacchia and Moldova!

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@pokylino1992 7 days ago

Respect from Croatia-Europe God bless you and your work sir

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@PMHISTORY 7 days ago

The Battle of Vaslui is insane — 40,000 defeating 120,000 through tactics, terrain and sheer determination. One of the most underrated victories in medieval history!

26 Reply



11 replies

@mahbubarTalukdar 5 days ago

Victory of patience, discipline, determination over anger, emotion and lack of farsightedness.

7 Reply



@Histowhispa 7 days ago

I was absolutely blown away by this deep dive into the Battle of Vaslui! It's truly incredible how Prince Stephen III managed to dismantle a massive Ottoman force of 120,000 with just 40,000 men through sheer strategic genius. The way you broke down his scorched earth tactics and how he weaponized the winter and terrain against Suleiman Pasha really brought this forgotten piece of history to life. Your storytelling is top-notch, capturing not just the brilliant military maneuvers but also the brutal human cost of these impossible choices. This is exactly the kind of raw, "no fluff" history content I've been looking for. Keep up the amazing work, Dar...

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@mithrandir4146 7 days ago

Thank you so much for telling this remarkable story of self-sacrifice, unbracable will and stead-fast heroism of Moldovian people in their fight for freedom and souverenity! Why would a man fight when odds are impossible, when submission might guarantee survival? As to Ukrainian-American as to any free man who cherishes his G-d given right of freedom and and self-determination the answer is clear! It is better to fight well and die free standing up for your freedom, for your land and family, then to live in chains and still die as a slave on your knees and in chains! The cause of Freedom is Sacred and Eternal given to us by Heaven! So are ...

10 Reply



@davidwhelan1545 4 days ago

First heard this story on my first visit to the Czech Repoblic in the mid-90s. Well told.

5 Reply



@gdurant 4 days ago

